



# Colorado RPS and case study

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# Colorado RPS

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# Colorado RPS

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- Petitioned on ballot in 2004 as statutory change (not Constitutional amendment)
- Supported by:
  - Environmental groups
  - Rural economic development advocates
  - Renewable resource developers
- Passed during November, 2004 election  
53%-47%



# Colorado RPS

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- Two bills, in 2005 and 2007, changed the RPS
- 2005 bill relatively minor changes
  - Biggest was counting existing hydro up to 30 megawatts
- 2007 bill sweeping changes



# Colorado RPS

	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Bill ('07)</b>
Standard	10% by 2015	20% by 2020
Applies to	Both IOUs; co-ops/munis with > 40,000 customers	Both IOUs; <u>all co-ops</u> , munis with > 40,000 customers (note, standard for munis and co-ops stayed at 10%)
Eligible resources	Wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, small hydro (10mw new; 30mw existing)	Same, plus "recycled energy"
Rate cap	1%	2%



# Colorado RPS

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- Solar has to be 4% of total requirement
- Half of solar must be installed “on-site” at utilities’ residential/commercial customers
- Customers that install solar can receive up to \$200,000 per installation from utility
- If solar systems produce more energy than customers consume, utilities must pay
- Solar standard only applies to IOUs



# Colorado RPS

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- Colorado Public Utilities Commission sets rules and oversees program, however
- Munis can create and “self-certify” their own programs that are “substantially similar” to mandate
- Munis not subject to PUC when they “self-certify”



# Political Lessons Learned

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- Take a good legislative deal
- Don't underestimate attractiveness of renewable energy to voters
- Don't assume legislature will never change
- Engage in positive relationships with environmental advocates before, during and after outcome of process